

Forest Hill United Church

An Affirming Congregation



Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 2, 2017 at 10 am

“Every relationship improves when we really start to listen, especially our relationship with God.”

Matthew Kelly (b. 1973)
Resisting Happiness

WELCOME to worship! It is good that you are here.

Our worship leader is **Rev. Ali Anningson**

and our music director is **Alex Good**,

who leads us with the assistance of the **FHUC Choir**.

Our greeter this morning is **Jennifer Abbott**,

our Sunday School teachers are **Alex Good** & **Margie Roxborough**,

our hospitality host is **Jennifer Abbott**,

and our tellers are **Bob Fisher** and **Lorna McKnight**.

Forest Hill United Church is a safe place for all people to gather regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, family status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. All are welcome here!

Children, youth and teachers
please go directly to Sunday School.

Thanks to **Diane Robinson** for providing music leadership today while Alex is at Sunday School.

Gathering In

At the **, please rise in body or in spirit.

Lent - A Season for Listening

Prelude: Minuet in G by Beethoven

****Introit:** *(Sung Together)* #400 VU

**God, may we hear what you are saying.
God, stir our souls and calm our fears.
God, may we hear what you are saying.
Open hearts, open minds, open ears.**

Revised Words by Ali Smith, 2017

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: From the tomb of winter hibernation,

All: **we emerge to worship God.**

One: From the isolation caused by snowbanks and cold,

All: **we find God's warmth in this place.**

One: Let us worship the God of life.

All: **Let us worship together.**

By Louise Mahood in *Gathering L/E* 2014

Gathering Prayer:

One: Holy One, our faith has saved us
**All: from speaking without consideration,
from acting without thinking.**

One: Our faith has saved us
**All: from favouring the powerful,
from following the popular.**

One: Our faith has saved us
**from self-centredness,
from egotism.**

One: Our faith has saved us
from selfishness and greed.

One: Our faith has saved us
All: from being too busy to see what is important.

One: And for those times
when our faith did not save us from these things,
**All: we seek forgiveness
and a chance to make things right,
to learn, and to grow into a people
saved by our faith in you
and our example in Jesus. Amen.**

By Eric Hebert-Daly in *Gathering L/E 2014*

****Opening Hymn:** #10 MV Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

Listening Together

Welcoming the Darkness

Listening Song: “Hard Times” Performed by Joel Plaskett

Let us pause in life’s pleasures and count it’s many tears
While we all share the sorrow with the poor
There’s a song that will linger forever in our ears
Oh, hard times come again no more

*It’s the song, the sigh of the weary
Hard times, hard times, come again no more
Many days you have lingered around my cabin door
Oh, hard times come again no more*

While we seek mirth and beauty and music light and gay
There are frail forms fainting at the door
Though their voices are silent, their pleading looks will say
Oh, hard times come again no more

It’s the sigh that is wafted across the troubled wave
It’s the wail that is heard upon the shore
It’s the dirge that is murmured around the lowly grave
Oh hard times, come again no more

Listening Exercise: A Guided Mediation by Michael Patrick Ellard

Lenten Hymn: #111 VU As the Sun with Longer Journey

Words from Our Bible:

Dorma Grant

Psalm 130	Page 853 VU (with Refrain 2)
John 11:1-45	<i>Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead</i>

One: This is the Word of God for our listening ears.
All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music: Triumphal March by Verdi

Message: “This is What Happens When You Wake the Dead”

****Hymn of Reflection:** #89 MV Love is the Touch

Going Forth

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** *(Sung Together)* #376 VU

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

****Prayer After Giving**

The Prayer That Jesus Taught: #959 VU The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Our Community

Words to Carry Forth: Excerpt from *Life of the Beloved*
by Henri Nouwen

****Closing Hymn:** #716 VU My Life Flows On

****Blessing**

****Choral Response:** *(Sung Together)* #216 MV

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

Postlude: May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You by M Wilson

Please join us for coffee and conversation directly following the service.

OFFICE HOURS

(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Administrative Assistant - **Kris Yarych**
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:45 - 3:45 pm
foresth.office@bellaliant.com

Minister - **Rev. Ali Anningson**
Mondays to Thursdays from 9 am - Noon
revalianningson@gmail.com (506) 292-2369 [cell]

Holy Week Services

Sunday, April 9 at 10 am: With palms in hand, we will remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with our **Palm Sunday Service**.

Thursday, April 13 at 6pm: Share a meal followed by communion to observe **Maundy Thursday**. Please bring main dishes, salad, rolls, etc. Dessert of grapes provided.

Friday, April 14 at 11am: You are invited to "Come to Gethsemane" at our **Good Friday Service**.

Sunday, April 16 at 6:30 am: Join us for our "Early One Morning..." **Easter Sunrise Service**. Meet at the Experimental Farm, Lincoln Road. (Take the first entrance on your right, directly before the main entrance to the Potato Research Facility.) Bring a dish to share at the potluck breakfast afterwards at the Church.

Sunday, April 16 at 10am: Holy Week ends with our **Easter Sunday Service** where we will celebrate "The Rainbow After the Storm" with reflection, music and communion.

Church News

COMING UP @ FHUC

Progressive Christianity Study Group

A. Mondays 7 - 8 pm in the Library

B. Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 pm in the Parlour

Book Club

Tue, Apr 4th, 12 noon The Hare with Amber Eyes, by Edmund de Waal

Sunday, April 23

10 am Service to Celebrate of Our Affirming Ministry

Quilt Group

Wednesdays 1-3 pm Upper Room

Choir Practice

Sunday at 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room

FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC

Free income tax clinics will be held for people of lower income from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.
Friday March 31, April 7, 21, and 28.
For information call Mary Grant 459-8525

Potential Scripture Readers - During April, May Houston (455-7715) has taken on the task of arranging for lay readers to assist at Worship Services. Please help her by indicating on the Reader Chart which Sunday's in April (and beyond) you would be available if needed and also when you would not be available.

Forest Hill Book Club will meet on Tuesday April 4th at 12 noon in the church parlour. The April book is The Hare with Amber Eyes. By Edmund de Waal.

Storm Policy Reminder: In the event of a serious storm on a Sunday morning, a decision will be made by 8 a.m. as to whether a cancellation is necessary. If a service is cancelled, a message will be placed on the church answering machine, sent out via email, and passed on to CBC radio.

Community Events

The UCW of St. Paul's United Church, on the corner of George and York Streets, will be hosting a BRIDGE LUNCHEON, on Saturday, April 8th beginning at 12 noon. Tables are \$48.00. Contact Isabel to register at 459-7116.

UCW Bridge Luncheon Book your table now for our upcoming Bridge Luncheon. **Thursday, May 11th, at 12 noon.** At the Nashwaaksis United Church gym. Tables are \$40.00. Contact Connie – 472-4744

Minute for Mission A Congregational Giving Program

Our gifts for Mission & Service support congregational stewardship programs. Let us hear a story about the current congregational giving program.

How can we help congregational leaders encourage their churches to support both local mission and the ministry of The United Church in Canada and around the globe? How could that support help everyone to live faithfully every day?

Responding to these questions, the United Church created *Called to Be the Church*—an annual resource to help congregations fund their dreams and make a difference in their community and in the world through Mission & Service.

Creative folk from across our church collaborated on worship services, sermons, and learning programs to do three things that will help build support for our mission here and as a denomination. The *Called to Be the Church* congregational giving program helps to

inspire people to see not just where the money goes but also what generosity accomplishes

invite people to join others in making a difference in the lives of many, near and far

thank, to model gratitude for all the gifts we receive from God

This giving program is available for all congregations to access in print and online. It is easily adaptable for all to build and sustain generosity in their communities.

We sing thanksgiving for congregational stewardship programs that inspire, ask, and thank!

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

